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<b>Notice of Allowability</b>	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/782,173	COFFIN, DAVID C.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Carolyn T. Blake	3724	

**-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--**

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to the Amendment filed on 9/23/2005.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 8-10 and 22-24.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
  - a) ☐ All    b) ☐ Some\*    c) ☐ None    of the:
    1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
    2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
    3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* Certified copies not received: \_\_\_\_\_.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.  
**THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.**

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS ( as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
  - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review ( PTO-948) attached
    - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
  - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

**Attachment(s)**

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|---|--|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)</li> <li>2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)</li> <li>3. <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),<br/>Paper No./Mail Date _____</li> <li>4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit<br/>of Biological Material</li> </ol> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)</li> <li>6. <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413),<br/>Paper No./Mail Date _____</li> <li>7. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment</li> <li>8. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance</li> <li>9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____</li> </ol> |
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### **REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE**

1. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: The claims are allowable because the prior art fails to teach a razor cartridge comprising at least four razor blades wherein the increase in exposure between adjacent blades is non-uniform and incrementally decreases from blade to blade beginning with a forward-most razor blade and ending with an aft-most razor blade as set forth in claims 8 and 22 or the blades are positioned to alternate between positive and negative exposure relative to a plane as set forth in claims 9 and 23.

Regarding claims 8 and 22, Ortiz et al (5,689,883) disclose a razor cartridge (10) comprising a frame; two razor blades (12, 14) supported by the frame, wherein each razor blade (12, 14) includes a cutting edge that extends along a length of the razor blade (12, 14); a guard (18) attached to the frame, the guard (18) including a contact surface, and wherein the guard (18) is disposed forward of the razor blades (12, 14); and a cap (16) attached to the frame, the cap including a contact surface (48) wherein the cap is disposed aft of the razor blades (12, 14); the two razor blades (12, 14) being positioned relative to the plane extending between the contact surfaces (48) of the guard (18) and the cap (16) such that each of the blades (12, 14) has a greater amount of exposure than the razor blade of which it is positioned aft (FIG 6). Ortiz et al fail to disclose at least four blades. Pelizzola (1,920,711) discloses a razor with at least four blades wherein the additional blades create a closer shave. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to provide four blades, as disclosed by Pelizzola, on the Ortiz et al device for the purpose

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of creating a closer shave. However, the Ortiz et al-Pelizzola combination still fails to disclose the increase in exposure between adjacent blades is non-uniform and incrementally decreases from blade to blade beginning with a forward-most razor blade and ending with an aft-most razor blade as set forth in claims 8 and 22.

Regarding claims 9 and 23, Ortiz et al disclose a razor cartridge (10) comprising a frame; two razor blades (12, 14) supported by the frame, wherein each razor blade (12, 14) includes a cutting edge that extends along a length of the razor blade (12, 14); a guard (18) attached to the frame, the guard (18) including a contact surface, and wherein the guard (18) is disposed forward of the razor blades (12, 14); and a cap (16) attached to the frame, the cap including a contact surface (48) wherein the cap is disposed aft of the razor blades (12, 14); wherein the two razor blades (12, 14) are arranged so that the cutting edge of each blade is adjacent a plane extending between the contact surfaces of the guard and cap. Ortiz et al fail to disclose at least four blades. Pelizzola discloses a razor with at least four blades wherein the additional blades create a closer shave. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to provide four blades, as disclosed by Pelizzola, on the Ortiz et al device for the purpose of creating a closer shave. However, the Ortiz et al-Pelizzola combination still fails to disclose the blades are positioned to alternate between positive and negative exposure relative to the plane as set forth in claims 9 and 23.

The above prior art by itself or in combination with the other prior art cited fails to teach the claimed invention set forth in claims 8, 9, 22, and 23.


**Conclusions**


2. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

3. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Carolyn T. Blake whose telephone number is (571) 272-4503. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday to Friday, 8:00 AM to 5:30 PM, alternating Fridays off.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Allan N. Shoap can be reached on (571) 272-4514. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

  
CB  
October 11, 2005

  
KENNETH E. PETERSON  
PRIMARY EXAMINER